

Henry Cluff Ranch
(George Fisher Ranch)
Jordanelle Valley
Corner of Keetley Mine Road
and U.S. Route 40
Heber vicinity
Wasatch County
Utah

HABS No. UT-135

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HENRY CLUFF RANCH
(GEORGE FISHER RANCH)

HABS No. UT-135

LOCATION: At corner of Keetley Mine Road and U.S.
Route 40, Keetley, Wasatch County, Utah

USGS Park City East
UTM 12.464925.4498150

PRESENT OWNER: Delores and Lemar Crandall, Keetley, Utah

PRESENT OCCUPANT: Delores and Lemar Crandall, Keetley, Utah

SIGNIFICANCE: Built in the early 20th century by Henry Cluff, an early Mormon leader in northern Wasatch County, this ranch was purchased by George Fisher in 1918. It was used to support a large livestock operation, and during World War II (1942-1945) it became the site of a Japanese-American agricultural colony. The ranch structures retain their historic integrity and are locally significant examples of vernacular architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: circa 1900
2. Architect: Unknown; structures are believed to have been built by Henry Cluff.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is taken from records in the Wasatch County Recorder's Office, Heber City, Utah:

Henry Cluff received the ranch land from the U.S. Government through patent on September 25, 1878. Book G, page 233.

Henry Cluff and his wife Kezia sold the property to James McDonald for \$10,000. Recorded on December 10, 1909,

Book 9, page 57.

James McDonald and his wife Sarah sold the property to George Fisher for \$35,000. Recorded on June 7, 1918, Book 14, page 402.

George Fisher sold the property to David S. Brown for \$80,000 in December, 1953. Recorded on October 10, 1955, Book 71, page 39.

David S. Brown sold the property to Lemar Crandall for \$100,000 on October 10, 1955. Recorded on October 10, 1955, Book 71, page 46.

B. Historical Context:

The Henry Cluff/George Fisher Ranch was built as part of a general pattern of Mormon settlement in rural Utah. Mormon pioneers first came to the Heber Valley (present day Wasatch County) in the late 1850s and within a few years had established a small farming settlement known as Hailstone along the upper Provo River in the Jordanelle Valley. As with many communities in Utah, Hailstone depended upon irrigated agriculture for its economic livelihood. A small tributary entered the Provo River from the north at the Jordanelle Valley but for many years this creek played no significant role in the local economy. However, in the early 1890s the Ontario Mining Company of Park City constructed a tunnel through the Wasatch Mountains in order to drain water from the lower levels of its silver mines. This considerably increased the flow of water in the small tributary of the Provo River and led it to be called Drain Tunnel Creek. With this increase in flow, farming in the area around the creek became much more feasible and this led to the establishment of a ranch by Henry Cluff. Cluff was a local leader of the Mormon church and his ranching operation involved the raising of hay and alfalfa for livestock.

In 1918 the former Cluff Ranch came under the control of George Fisher who operated for the next 35 years. During this time Fisher continued to raise livestock and he also participated in constructing houses for miners who worked at the nearby Keetley Mine. This mine had been opened in the 1920s using the old Ontario drain tunnel as a mine shaft. Fisher also constructed a motel and cafe to serve travellers on U.S. Route 40. During World War II Fisher invited a colony of Japanese-Americans from Oakland, California under the leadership of Mr. Fred Wada to lease his ranch as a vegetable farm. These American citizens were required to evacuate the Pacific Coast as part of domestic war policy. Fisher housed the colony in his motel (demolished in the 1970s) and went to substantial lengths to insure that they were accorded the rights due to all U.S. citizens. After the war the colony completely disbanded and the ranch returned to its previous agricultural patterns. In the late 1950s the ranch came under the control of Delores and Lemar Crandall who have

continued to operate it for almost 30 years. In recent years the Crandalls have supported 1000 head of cattle and 300 head of sheep on the ranch during the summer months.

Upon completion of the Jordanelle Dam, the Jordanelle Valley and the valley surrounding Drain Tunnel Creek will be inundated by the flood pool. After almost a century of continuous operation, this will necessarily bring a halt to farming on the historic Henry Cluff/George Fisher Ranch.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

The Cluff/Fisher Ranch consists of four wooden frame structures: the main ranch house, the barn, and two shed outbuildings. The following provides a description of these four structures:

The Ranch House is a two-story, tee-plan structure with a gable roof that rests on a masonry foundation. It is approximately 25 feet by 50 feet in plan and remains unaltered except for a small one story addition on the rear part of the north facade. The first floor is divided into four rooms. The front of the house has a living room on the south side and the master bedroom on the north side. The kitchen occupies the the southeast corner of the first floor and a storage room occupies the northeast corner. The second floor only occupies the front part of the house. A bedroom occupies the north half of the second floor while the southern half is an attic storage space. The simple, vernacular design of the circa 1900 structure has not not been degraded during the past century and it remains a good example of a turn-of-the-century Utah farm house.

The barn is approximately 50 feet by 50 feet in plan with a steep-pitched gable roof. It has a large, two-story central section flanked by one-story sections on the east and west facades.

The northern shed is a single story structure with a flatly sloped roof. It is approximately 15 feet by 70 feet in plan and has its main facade facing east toward the barn and ranch house.

The southern shed is a single story, gable roof structure with a small two-story addition on the north facade and a single story addition on the south facade. The building is approximately 25 feet by 25 feet in plan. It has been abandoned for many years and has undergone considerable deterioration.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Primary Sources:

Records in the Wasatch County Recorder's Office,
Heber City, UT.

Interview with Delores Crandall, August 1986.

B. Secondary sources:

Fisher, Galen M. "Japanese Colony: Success Story."
SURVEY GRAPHIC 32 (February 1943): 41-44, 58-59.

Mortimer, William James. How Beautiful Upon the
Mountains: A Centennial History of Wasatch County
(Salt Lake City: Wasatch County Chapter of the Daughters
of the Utah Pioneers and the Deseret News Press, 1963)

Raty, Leslie S. Under Wasatch Skies: A History of
Wasatch County, 1858-1900 (Salt Lake City: Deseret
News Press, 1954).

Taylor, Sandra C. "Japanese Americans and Keetley Farms."
Utah Historical Quarterly 54 (Fall 1986): 328-344.

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Rocky Mountain Regional Office
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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was completed under contract for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Park Service in line with an interagency agreement between the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. Recording took place in 1986-87 under the direction of Gregory D. Kendrick, contract supervisor, and Donald C. Jackson, principal investigator. Clay Fraser completed the photographs and measured drawings.